

an indicator of optical code reading status, said indicator including a projector of visible illumination on an area associated with said optical code in response to reading of said optical code by said optical code reader.--

-- 27. An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said indicator comprises a visible light projector projecting visible light upon at least a portion of said optical code. -- ✓

-- 28. An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said indicator comprises an element for selective transmission of said visible light, said element comprising at least one of a diffractive element, a diaphragm having a predetermined shape, a slide, a reflecting surface having a predetermined shape, a shutter and a hologram. -- ✓

-- 29. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said visible light projector includes a light source emitting at least two chromatic components, and, in response to said optical code reader, said projector emitting one of the at least two chromatic components. --

-- 30. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said projector includes at least one convergent lens for collimating projected light and focussing said light on said optical code. --

spot light implies converging

-- 31. An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said indicator includes an acoustic indicator. --

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-- 32. A method of acquiring and reading an optical code, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) acquiring and reading an optical code with an optical code reading apparatus;
and

(b) providing, at said optical code, a visible indication of said acquiring and reading step. --

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-- 33. The method of claim 32, wherein said acquiring and reading step provides an output indicative of a completed successful reading of said optical code, and, in response to said output, said providing step provides a visible indication of said completed successful reading of said optical code. --

-- 34. The method of claim 32, wherein said acquiring and reading step provides an output indicative of a completed unsuccessful reading of said optical code, and, in response to said output, said providing step provides a visible indication of said completed unsuccessful reading of said optical code. --

-- 35. The method of claim 33, wherein said acquiring and reading step provides an output indicative of a completed unsuccessful reading of said optical code, and, in response to said output, said providing step provides a visible indication of said completed unsuccessful reading of said optical code. --